

## **GD-084-PHS-EMS: Drug Profile for Cimetidine**

*This is the Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendation for the use of this drug in the prehospital setting.*

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**GENERIC NAME:**

**CIMETIDINE**

**CLASS:** GI-Anti Ulcer

### Mechanism of Action:

Competitively inhibits action of histamine at the H<sub>2</sub> at receptor sites of parietal cells, decreasing gastric acid secretion.

### Indications and Field Use:

Infusion monitoring during interfacility transport only  
Short-term treatment of duodenal ulcer; maintenance therapy  
Pathological hypersecretory conditions  
Prevention of upper GI bleeding

### Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity to drug

### Adverse Reactions:

GI: Mild and transient diarrhea  
Cardiac: Heart block in elderly patients

## **NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION**

### Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

- Fosphenytoin, lidocaine, phenytoin, propanolol, some benzodiazepines, theophylline, warfarin: Inhibits hepatic microsomal enzyme metabolism of these drugs.
- Digoxin, fluconazole, indomethacin, iron salts, ketoconazole, tetracycline: Decreases drug absorption.

### Adult Dosage:

Pathologic hypersecretory conditions: 300mg in 50 mL normal saline infuse over 30 minutes  
Prevention of upper GI bleeding: 50 mg/hour continuous infusion

### Pediatric Dosage:

Can be utilized in children 16 years or older

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**Routes of Administration:**

IV infusion – Piggy back

**Onset of Action:**

Unknown

**Peak Effects:**

Immediate

**Duration of Action:**

Unknown

**Special Notes:**

Use cautiously in elderly or debilitated patients because they may be more susceptible to confusion.

Assess patients for abdominal pain. Note blood in emesis, stool, or gastric aspirate.